

A KEY TO THE XYLOTINI (SENSU HIPPA) KNOWN IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, PLUS *XYLOTA IGNAVA* (DIPT., SYRPHIDAE).

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Since the key to *Xylota* species incorporated into Coe (1953) appeared in print Hippa's outstanding revisionary work on the Xylotini of the world has been published (Hippa, 1978). As a result of Hippa's research, generic concepts in this hoverfly tribe have altered considerably, as has the concept of the tribe itself. In addition, Alan Stubbs has added another *Xylota* species, *X. coeruleiventris* Zett., to the British list. This species has also subsequently been found in Ireland. There is thus an evident need for a revised key to the Xylotini known in Great Britain and Ireland. The key which follows includes all of the species involved, together with *X. ignava* Panz. The latter hoverfly occurs locally over most of Western Europe, including Channel coast countries from France Northwards. I have found it in mixed beech (*Fagus*)/spruce (*Picea abies*) woods. It is included in the key because, due to its strong general resemblance to *X. segnis* L., it could otherwise be overlooked were it to occur in the British Isles. A further continental *Xylota*, *X. meigeniana* (Stack.), also demands mention. This species is known as far West as Scandinavia and according to Hippa (1968) can only be separated from *X. florum* (Fab.) on genitalic characters. Its close similarity to *X. florum* and its recent date of description (1964) would suggest that its known distribution quite possibly in no way reflects the limits of its range in Europe. All the males of British and Irish *X. florum* I have seen conform in their genitalia with the illustration of *X. florum* genitalia given by Hippa (1968), who also depicts the genitalia of *X. meigeniana*. In *X. florum* the outer margin of each cercus is distinctly concave, so that the cercus appears bluntly bilobed, while in *X. meigeniana* each cercus has a simple convex outer margin.

Apart from *X. ignava* all of the species keyed out below are known from Great Britain and apart from *C. eunotus* (Lw.), *X. ignava* and *X. xanthocnema* Coll. all are also recorded from Ireland. However, the solitary sight record of a female *X. abiens* Mg. from Ireland reported by Coe (1953) could well have been based on a misdetermination, since the presence in Ireland of *X. coeruleiventris* Zett. was not then known and these two species are virtually indistinguishable in the field, at least in the female sex. Where relevant, generic distinctions cited by Hippa (1978) have been used in the key, so that if species unsuspected in the British Isles should turn up they can at least be consigned to the correct genus. All of the known European genera of the tribe Xylotini are already recorded in both Great Britain and Ireland.

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KEY

1. Metasternum with hairs as long as those on ventral area of mesopleura 2
 - metasternum almost bare (hairs much shorter than those on ventral area of mesopleura) 3
2. Mesonotum shining, almost entirely undusted (a pair of vague longitudinal stripes can be discerned anteriorly); abdominal tergite 3 (and usually t.2) with orange/pinkish marks *Chalcosyrhus nemorum* (Fab.)
 - mesonotum dull and with three dull, black, longitudinal stripes, the median one forking at the transverse suture, the other two lateral; abdomen unmarked *C. eunotus* (Lw.)
3. Hind femora with median spinose ridge apicoventrally; frontal prominence unusually produced *Brachypalpus lenta* (Mg.)
 - hind femora with lateral spinose ridges or rows of spines apicoventrally; frontal area normal 4
4. Head strongly triangular in front view; arista about as long as maximum width of face *Brachypalpus laphriformis* (Fal.)
 - head cordate, arista very much longer than maximum width of face 5
5. Basoventral ridge on hind tibiae covered in short, black spines *Xylota segnis* L.
 - basoventral ridge (when present) on hind tibiae bare 6
6. Abdominal tergite 4 entirely covered with adpressed golden hairs 7
 - tergite 4 with black and/or whitish hairs (golden hairs may also be present) 8
7. Hind tibiae black for apical third *X. sylvarum* (L.)
 - hind tibiae entirely yellow *X. xanthocnema* Coll.
8. ♂♂ (eyes meeting above antennae) 9
 - ♀♀ (eyes not meeting above antennae) 13
9. Hind tibiae widely yellow at both ends; hind basitarsi (and two succeeding segments) yellow; tergite 2 and tergite 3 with orange bands *X. ignava* (Panz.) ♂
 - hind tibiae yellow only at base; hind basitarsi dark brown/black; t.2 and t.3 with or without orange bands 10
10. Tergite 2 longer than wide 11
 - tergite 2 wider than long 12
11. Fore basitarsi apically with a very long, outstanding, white hair (as long as succeeding tarsal segment) on the inner side, above; none of the hairs on upper part of outer side of hind femora as long as femur is deep *X. tarda* Mg. ♂
 - fore basitarsi apically without any long, outstanding white hairs, none of apical hairs extending forward as far as tip of next tarsal segment; hairs on upper part of basal half of outer side of hind femora including many longer than hind femur is deep *X. florum* (Fab.) ♂

12. Genital capsule black-haired; hind femora with hairs as long as more than $\frac{1}{2}$ depth of hind femur clustered in a clump in basal $\frac{1}{4}$ of femur, on the outer side of its upper surface *X. coeruleiventris* Zett. ♂
 - genital capsule whitish-haired; hind femora with few hairs as long as $\frac{1}{2}$ depth of hind femur and these scattered along outer side of more than half of the upper surface *X. abiens* Mg. ♂
13. At least second segment of hind tarsi orange/yellow above; tergites 2 and 3 each usually with a wide orange band, though this may be reduced to a pair of orange markings 14
 - all segments of hind tarsi dark brown/black above; t.2 and t. 3 each usually with a pair of small yellowish or pinkish marks, though these marks may be reduced or absent 15
14. Face entirely black *X. tarda* ♀
 - face with central area of upper mouth-edge broadly yellow *X. ignava* ♀
15. Hairs on outer (anterior) side of dorsal surface of hind femora all shorter than one third depth of hind femur, except in basal $\frac{1}{4}$ of femur, where a cluster of longer hairs occurs *X. coeruleiventris* ♀
 - hairs on outer (anterior) side of dorsal surface of hind femora including some longer than one third depth of hind femur, scattered along more than basal $\frac{1}{2}$ of the femora 16
16. Mesonotal disc brightly shining; fore coxae dull on outer surface; metasternum, hind coxae and hind trochanters dull *X. abiens* ♀
 - mesonotal disc dull; fore coxae brightly shining on outer surface; metasternum, hind coxae and hind trochanters brightly shining on most of surface *X. florum* ♀

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References

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- , 1978. Classification of Xylotini (Diptera, Syrphidae). *Acta Zool. Fenn.*, (156), 153 pp.

FOODPLANT OF *CHRYSOLINA POLITA* (COL.: CHRYSOMELIDAE). — Adults and larvae of *Chrysolina polita* were observed to be locally abundant on Gipsywort (*Lycopus europeaus*) at Kingsbury, Warwickshire, and were not observed on other plants. — JOHN ROBBINS, 123b Parkgate Road, Coventry